

# The Great Public Schools Association of Queensland

## MULTI-CLASS EVENT GUIDELINES

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*Spirit of Fellowship*



## Introduction to the Great Public Schools Multi-class inclusion

The Great Public Schools' Association of Queensland (GPS) offers student-athletes with disability the opportunity to participate in an inclusive environment with their peers at a Carnival and Championship level.

All student-athletes with a disability must be classified if they wish to participate in competitive sport and activities at their school, club, state, or national level. The GPS Association multi-class events are provided in cross country, Swimming and track and field.

Fixture Sport and Activities student-athletes are welcome and integrated within the individual school and team selections.

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**Executive Officer**  
**The Great Public Schools Association of Queensland**

## Previous amendments

Name	Effective	Approved date

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## 1. General

- 1.1. To compete at GPS multi-class events, student-athletes must be of eligible classification and listed on the appropriate masterlist (Swimming Australia / Athletics Australia / Sport Inclusion Australia / Deaf Sports Australia).
- 1.2. Upon classification, all student-athletes in multi-class events will be sent a classification card/ letter from the State Disability Organization or Swimming Australia OR be placed on a Masterlist by the classifying body.
- 1.3. Student-Athletes with a disability qualifying in any able-body event at the GPS Carnivals or Championships will not be allowed to compete in the equivalent multi-class event conducted on the same program.
- 1.4. Student-athletes will compete against a Baseline standard as determined by the Australian Paralympic Committee. Placings will be determined by the competitor's time/distance calculated against a percentage of the BASELINE standard.
- 1.5. In all competitions involving throwing events, student-athletes must use the implemented weight specified for their classification/age group.

## 2. Classification

All student-athletes with an eligible impairment type must be classified if they wish to participate in GPS events. Not all student-athletes with a disability will meet the minimum disability criteria for a specific sport. If a student-athlete does not meet the classification criteria, they will not be eligible to compete in multi-class events.

- 2.1. Classification is a way of grouping athletes of similar functions or abilities for the purpose of competition.
- 2.2. Classification has five areas or categories.
  - 2.2.1. If a student-athlete does not fall into one of the following categories, then they may not be able to be classified. If the student cannot be classified, they are ineligible to compete as a multi-class student-athlete and must therefore compete as able-bodied.
- 2.3. A key has been devised to distinguish between the events. S refers to Swimming, and T/F refers to Cross Country/ Track and Field.
- 2.4. **Functional (S1-S10) (T/F 32-58)** – [restriction in movement of limbs]  
Locomotor disability e.g. amputee, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, achondroplasia, etc.
- 2.5. **Visually Impaired (S11 – S13) (T/F 11-13)**  
Poor light acuity to total blindness.
- 2.6. **Intellectual (S14) (T/F20)**  
An IQ of 70 or 75 and below and significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills and must have signed verification from the School Principal/ Headmaster for confirmation, addressed to GPS Executive before the event.  
  
Please note: Autism Spectrum Disorder students, ADD/ ADHA and other behavioural disabilities must have an IQ of 70 and below to be eligible. Severe Language Disorder students have an IQ of above 85, and are therefore ineligible to compete in the disability classes.
- 2.7. **Deaf (S15) (T/F01)**  
At least 55db in the better ear as assessed by an audiologist or audiometrist.

**2.8. Transplant (S16) (T/F60)**

Organ or bone marrow.

**2.9. Temporary Classification**

A temporary classification may be issued in each area for the purpose of a school meet only; valid for a maximum of 30 days.

All temporary classifications or any student-athletes not on one of these master lists will be required to present evidence of their classification to their school seven (7) days before entries close for submission to the GPS Competition Manager for consideration.

**3. Events**

- 3.1. All meets are conducted under the ASI/ IAAF/ IPC/ GPS Sport guidelines.
- 3.2. Events may be integrated into able-bodied events where appropriate and safe (separate results will be awarded).

**3.3. Swimming**

- 3.3.1. All student-athletes must be able to swim 50m competently and be able to enter and leave the pool without mechanical assistance
- 3.3.2. GPS Swimming Carnival (10Yr-12Yrs)
  - 12Years & Under 50m Freestyle
- 3.3.3. GPS Swimming Championships (13Yr-Open)
  - Open 50m Freestyle
  - Open 50m Backstroke

**3.4. Cross Country**

- 3.4.1. Student-athletes must be competent in their chosen event.
- 3.4.2. GPS Cross Country Championships
  - Open 3000m

**3.5. Track & Field**

- 3.5.1. Student-athletes must be competent in their chosen event.
- 3.5.2. GPS Track & Field Carnival (10Yr-12Yrs)
  - 12Years & Under 100m
  - 12Years & Under Long Jump
  - 12Years & Under Shot-put
- 3.5.3. GPS Track & Field Championships (13Yr-Open)
  - Open 100m
  - Open 400m
  - Open Long Jump
  - Open Shot-put

- 3.6. The GPS Association will review the event offerings from time to time.

## 4. Baseline Scoring

- 4.1.1. BASELINE provides a simplified way for student-athletes, administrators, and coaches to compare performances in multi-class events across all athletes with an eligible classification.
- 4.1.2. BASELINE uses a base time/distance/height in each class for each contestable event and measures this as a percentage against the individual student-athletes performance to generate a percentage score.
- 4.1.3. Swimming Australia (SAL) and Athletics Australia (AA) may change or amend the BASELINE guidelines and associated resources (including base performances) at any time.
- 4.1.4. Base performances are determined using the following priority protocol:
  - i. The base performances will be the official World Record as of 1 February each year. In the case where an Official World Record is not available, the base performances will be:
    - a. The number one World Ranked performance as of 1 February, if quicker/higher/further than an existing base performance.
  - ii. In the case where a number one World Ranked performance is not available, the base performance will be generated using one of the following methods: -
    - a. The base performance of the next available preceding classification within the same classification system group.
    - b. Relative to past performances at Australian National Championships
    - c. Determined by the Paralympic Program Manager.
  - iii. The BASELINE can be found on the Swimming Australia and Athletics Australia websites

## 5. GPS Point Scoring

- 5.1.1. Student-athletes competing for their school will contribute to their school's overall aggregate points if five (5) or more schools have entered the event.
- 5.1.2. Points will be allocated as per the GPS Specific By-Laws.